



CROPS USE ONLY PART OF FERTILIZER

And Plantation Practise Is In Accord With Recent Scientific Discoveries

A constant supply of nitrogen in available form is the chief requirement to promote maximum growth in the cane. Nitrogen in the form of nitrate soda has been proved to possess the highest availability and it is held by most agricultural chemists that whatever the form in which nitrogen is applied it must change to an ultimate nitrate before acquiring maximum fertilizing value.

There have been many comparative availability tests in recent years for the purpose of finding out exactly what the different nitrogen carriers are worth, taking the value of nitrate of soda as 100 per cent. As a result of seven parallel experiments conducted in Germany, carried through a series of eight years to the close of 1914, it has been demonstrated that the "assimilation capacity" of a variety of crops for the total nitrogen in nitrate of soda averages sixty-one per cent. Taking this as 100, the nitrogen assimilated by crops from the other nitrogenous fertilizers is, nitrate of lime 91; sulphate of ammonia 78; cyanamide 65; and liquid manure 57.

The significance of these figures is that on an average only about 61 per cent of the total "available" nitrogen in nitrate of soda is ever used by plants. With sulphate of ammonia less than half, or 47.6 per cent, is used; with cyanamide 39.6 per cent; and only 44.8 per cent of the theoretically "available" nitrogen in liquid manure is actually transformed into growth by plants.

Sulphate of ammonia invariably gives better results on light soils than on heavy ones and its effect on crops grown in soils rich in humus is often phenomenal. The majority of Hawaiian soils may be classed as light rather than heavy and so the recognized efficiency of this fertilizer here agrees well with experience elsewhere.

Larger Amounts Needed. From the practical view point the importance of these scientific findings on the relative "capacity for use" of the different types of nitrogenous fertilizers is that larger amounts must be used. Here again the Hawaiian cane planters have made this discovery in their fields. It is often the last 300 pounds that doubles the crop.

Farmers and planters have assumed heretofore that all, or a larger share, of the nitrogen in nitrate of soda is usable. Actually, plants only take up three-fifths of the chemically available nitrate. These scientific discoveries bolster up and justify excessive fertilization.

SAVING THE SUGARS IN FACTORY WASTE

FRANKFORT, Germany, November 30.—In the search for food substitutes scientists have discovered that the waste of cellulose factories throughout Germany contains some 300,000 tons of organic substance with from 10 to 12 per cent of sugar.

The relatively high cost of extracting this sugary substance has heretofore stood in the way of making use of the waste. Now that prices have soared upwards, however, a serious effort is being made to preserve it, even at considerable expense, and use it in feeding the civil population of the Empire.

The waste also contains a high percentage of lime, which however has to be removed from the sugar at considerable cost. The proposal to make use of the waste has the additional advantage that German rivers, into which it at present flows, will be the cleaner for the purpose.

The sugar referred to in the above Associated Press news letter is presumably glucose, or "corn syrup," which is produced by the chemical treatment of starch and cellulose with mineral acids. Glucose has a high food value.

THE POTASH SHORTAGE. The potash shortage due to war may in the end prove beneficial to Hawaii, since it will turn the attention of the planters more forcibly to other means of enriching their fields than total dependence on commercial fertilizers. The potash that goes into the soil in the form of legumes or rotting cane trash is there to stay. Liquid manure is rich in potash, and hence if the embargo on German salt continues there is one more excellent reason why every plantation should combine stock feeding with sugar production.

CANAL BLOCKADE IS GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT

What the real business outlook is in the country as a whole I am unable to state," said Francis M. Swanzy, yesterday, "that is a question which I myself asked many times. Some business men declare the United States on the threshold of an unprecedented prosperity. Others, equally prominent in affairs, are pessimistic to an extreme and declare that were it not for the enormous export business which war has brought to certain industries business would be in a desperate way."

Mr. Swanzy returned yesterday from a fourteen weeks' business and pleasure trip which took him to New York, New Orleans, Chicago and San Francisco. He made a considerable stay in each of these cities. He said there is phenomenal activity in the metal trades. Copper, iron and steel have gone away up out of sight. Many manufacturers have simply quit taking orders, there is so much more offered than they can do. Outside of the metal trades it is difficult to get a line on the present or the future.

"The Panama Canal is the saddest disappointment of all," Mr. Swanzy said. "No one knows when the work will be finished and this gateway again opened to commerce. In San Francisco I saw a series of photos taken daily for about ten days from November 2 and there was not enough water in the Canal where the great slides are coming down, to float a canoe through. No one knows when the Canal will be clear again. Some say April, others June, and others hazard the opinion that it may be blocked much longer."

SALT TO NEUTRALIZE BLACK ALKALI

It has long been accepted as a fact that mixtures of fertilizer salts which alone would depress growth neutralize one another and produce conditions favorable to growth. Thus the antagonism of lime to magnesia has been repeatedly proved.

Prof. C. R. Lipman as a result of recent experiments goes further and declares that different salts of the same base when in mixed solution exhibit like effect. Thus a one-fifth per cent solution of common salt depresses growth fully fifty per cent. A one twentieth per cent solution of carbonate of soda depresses growth about twenty per cent. Yet when the two are added together the depressing power of soda is increased more than twenty five per cent above the normal.

Lipman found that a soil containing too much carbonate of soda that crops would barely grow and was completely neutralized by applying common salt in a proportion which would have been deadly had there been no carbonate present.

Except that the remedy might not be permanent he suggests that this may prove a practical weapon in treating alkali soil problems. Draining the land, applying gypsum, and plowing under manure, have been the practical remedies hitherto recommended for "curing" alkali soils.

As Dr. Burgess has suggested, carbonate of soda is the cause of Lahaina disease, some such temporary method as that suggested by Professor Lipman may be proved effective at least as a permanent cure would be far better.

GOOD ADVICE AGAIN.

"The Advertiser is absolutely right in advising the planters to harvest their cane when the cane is ripe, and not just when it is convenient," F. Weinberger, manager of Pioneer, recently stated. "I have long advocated a change in practice along these lines."

There is a stage in the life of the cane when juice, purity and sucrose content are highest, a stage that can be determined readily by chemical analysis. We need too much and gain too little by not being ready to handle all the crop when it is ripe.

"Build up the capacity of mill and boiling house," said Mr. Weinberger, "standardize both so that every unit will have equal capacity, and then standardize the field transportation system to make its capacity equal to the maximum capacity of the mill. When this has been accomplished the planters will get more sugar per acre and per unit of cost because they can harvest all their cane when it is at its best."

SUGAR IN BRAZIL.

At the Pernambuco (Brazil) sugar experiment station the water requirements of cane have recently been studied. It was found that for 100 acres of cane the daily evaporation of water by the growing crop averaged 84,433 cubic feet, equivalent to 0.21 inch per day, or 7.2 inches per month, to be substituted to the crop by rainfall or irrigation.

The director of the experiment station states in his annual report that the cost of sugar production in Pernambuco is eight per cent higher than it is in Hawaii. The cane average forty-eight tons per acre, but the sucrose averages low, and the yield of sugar is only three and a half tons per acre.

BATTELLE PROCESS FOR CUBAN CENTRALS

Alonso Gartley, consulting engineer of C. Brewer & Company, returned from the Matonia from New York, where he had represented his company in the negotiations for the new selling and shipping contracts. He said that Noel Deerr has been investigating the Battelle process for a Cuban sugar factory in the United States, making an exhaustive survey of white sugar production. If Mr. Deerr's report is favorable a pending contract for the installation of the Battelle process in some of the largest mills in Cuba will undoubtedly be signed.

"The Cuban planters are very deeply interested in white sugar manufacture," Mr. Gartley said. "The first large plantation that makes it will reap a great harvest, as there is a growing local demand for white sugar in Cuba. Then, the export market is also attractive."

"I met some prominent Cuban sugar men in New York. They expect a tremendous crop in 1916, not less than three million and perhaps up to three and a half million long tons. One Cuban planter said the limit of the crop would be what they can get labor to harvest," Mr. Gartley said.

"I have been rather interested to know whether the mutual agreement entered into by the refiners, forbidding rebating would last. In Chicago the brokers predicted it would not be live up to two weeks. The real reason why they were forced to come to mutual agreement was that buyers of sugar for export were taking advantage of the situation and the refiners could not stand the strain. 'Vest pocket sales' have been far too common everyone agrees, but the question is can the refiners stay together long enough to overthrow the practice."

SHORT RATTOONS.

There is no doubt that growing short rattoons, and getting all but the plant crop down to a one-year basis is going to be the rule on irrigated plantations where this practice can be easily followed. Dr. H. P. Agee has been carrying on experiments with rapidly maturing varieties, and fertilizers to help them grow faster, and will have some eye-opening facts to present to the planters very soon.

It is not good business to grow a crop of cane through two winters if almost as large a crop can be grown in one summer and one winter. Some of the new Hawaiian seedlings are bumper rattoons. With their assistance the plantations ought to get three rattoon crops in three years instead of two, as at present.

HIBISCUS SUGAR BAGS.

Some of the tropical species of hibiscus produce hard, tough-grained wood closely resembling ash and capable of substitution for it in making tool handles. The best of these are elatus, macrophyllus, mutabilis and vulpinus. Certain varieties of the common ornamental hibiscus of the gardens are cultivated in India for fibre, producing yields as high as two and a half tons per acre. Hibiscus bark contains three to three and sixteenths per cent fibre, while jute bark contains only one per cent. In 1913 over 3,700,000 acres of hibiscus was grown in India. The fibre is not distinguishable from jute, and in fact is usually mixed with it in burlaps.

NEAR-SIGHTED HORSES.

Because of mistakes made by horses in judging the jumps in racing contests a scientific investigation of the "horse" vision was made by the German Reich Records Association during 1914. Three hundred and twenty-two horses, ranging in age from one to twenty years old, were tested. Six per cent of this number were found to be far-sighted, while twenty-eight per cent were near-sighted to a greater or less degree. The age of the animal apparently had nothing to do with defective vision. In sixty-six per cent of the horses tested the sight was absolutely normal.

SUGAR IN PERU.

There is about 160,000 acres in sugar cane in Peru. The production runs as high as forty tons of cane per acre while in Cuba the average is said to be twenty-two tons. Sugar is produced at a cost of \$24.35 to \$29.20 per ton, according to a recent number of Peru Today, as against \$68.30 per ton in Louisiana, \$59 in Hawaii, and \$13.80 in Cuba and the West Indies.

UNION MILL CONTINUES.

Union Mill Company officially quit grinding 1915 cane the morning of November 18 and commenced on the 1916 cane at noon. Practically the mill has never stopped grinding but has worked straight along and will continue harvesting until all its cane is out of the way.

LAUPAHOE GRINDING.

Laupahoehoe Sugar Company commenced grinding its 1916 crop December 2. No estimate has yet been made but as both the 1914 and 1915 crops were slightly in excess of eleven thousand tons the new crop may be assumed to be about the same.

VERDICT IN BUCHANAN CASE.

A sealed verdict was handed in the second trial of Corporal Eugene Buchanan by the jury at twelve thirty o'clock this morning.

DUTY ON SUGAR FOR REVENUE ONLY

Hawaii Gains Because of Nation's Necessity—High Protection Not Desired

"I think the present outlook for Hawaii and the sugar industry has never been brighter," E. Faxon Bishop, president of C. Brewer & Company said yesterday on returning from San Francisco on the Matonia. "However, we must still maintain the highest efficiency in production. That is the only absolutely certain road to permanent prosperity."

"I hope sincerely that the old tariff on sugar will not be restored," he said. "The present tariff is sufficient. I want to see a moderate rate of protection maintained and I hope congress will adopt a happy medium between high and low. That is what I told Congressman Frank Woods of Iowa this summer when he asked me what we wanted. In my opinion it would be a fatal error for any political party to advocate a return to high protective tariffs. We do not want the protective wall built so high that it will arouse the antagonism or the cupidity of any one."

Not All Firms Selling. "There is bound to be some kind of a scrap in Congress over the sugar duties and some of them will undoubtedly filibuster against it, but all admit that there is no way open to raise fifty million dollars of revenue so easily. The Democrats are not giving any consideration at all to the subject of protection of the domestic producers. They want revenue and revenue only. I hope they will not return to the old rate of duty on sugar for if that is re-enacted it will not be permanent."

Mr. Bishop said that because of family illness he took no active part in the sugar contract negotiations recently conducted. "I am very glad to get back to Honolulu and get warm again," he added. "Hawaii is a pretty good country to live in."

JUTE FIBRE OBTAINED FROM SEVERAL PLANTS

Jute fibre is obtained from two species of corchorus, capularis and olitorius. In India both are grown under irrigation, or in regions of very high rainfall, comparable to the Oahu and Niihau districts of Hawaii. The seeds of both species are sowed. Capularis seed is brown and twice as heavy as the blue-green or brown-green olitorius seeds. Olitorius produces the best fibre. Its stems are less tapering and more uniform than capularis. The latter has a tendency to branch, and its fibre is therefore not of uniform quality when retted. Capularis grows seven to twelve feet high and olitorius up to six or eight feet.

The harvest consists in cutting the mature stalks, bundling them up and leaving them in shallow tanks of ponds until the stems rot. The fibre is then washed, dried and beaten to rid it of adhering vegetable matter. The yield ranges from 900 to 1500 pounds of jute fibre per acre.

Corchorus capularis has sharp pointed leaves which are bitter and medicinal. Olitorius leaves are blunt. The young leaves are edible and are used as a vegetable. The capularis variety takes more water than olitorius and is the one usually grown in districts of high rainfall. Hibiscus cannabinus, a fibrous annual which is jute-like in habit of growth, is said to be replacing jute in Indian agriculture, as its yields range up to thirty tons per acre.

PLANTER'S MEETING.

Next Tuesday morning the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' association's annual meeting will convene at the chamber of commerce rooms. The morning session will be for business only, the election of trustees and new officers. The regular program will commence at two o'clock. There will be no banquet this year and no entertainment or "high jinks" have been planned.

E. D. TENNEY RETURNS.

E. D. Tenney who returned yesterday on the Matonia said he had very little to say about sugar or the sugar situation. "I went away for a rest and have simply been loafing," he said. "You in Honolulu know more about it than I do. I have not tried to keep in touch with anything. I am very glad to get back home again."

NEW CONTRACT PRICE.

In the new selling contract for Hawaiian sugars to be delivered at Atlantic ports the price is to be based on the average of all sales for ten days previous to arrival of cargo at destination. This new basis is considered fairer to both seller and buyer than that on which basis were fixed in former contracts.

PIONEER AND LIHUE.

Pioneer Mill Company will commence harvesting its new crop on December 15. Lihue Plantation Company is already well along, its first 1916 cane having been ground December 1.

NO GOOD REASON FOR HIGH PRICES

Willett & Gray Thought Limit Had Been Reached Two Weeks Ago

Stiffness of raw sugar on the New York market for the week ending November 23 were only 93,000 bags. Summarizing the market Willett & Gray state that stocks in the United States and Cuba together were 237,219 tons, against 278,613 tons last week and 326,211 tons last year, a decrease of 88,992 tons from last year.

The previous week marked the culmination, for the time being, of the upswing reaction in the sugar market, with the closing price for Cuba Centrals at 4.77¢ per lb. The quotation has remained unchanged throughout the week, although, the market has assumed a somewhat firmer aspect with a possible renewal of the scarcity of immediate supplies before new crop Cubas become available, and as a consequence there may be a temporary advance in prices during the next few weeks.

This possibility is increased by the difficulties attending the tonnage situation, which is increasing freight rates from Cuba irregularly, and preventing the free offerings of both prompt and future shipments on the cost and freight basis.

There has been much speculation regarding the quantity of new crop Cuban sugar for January. March shipments that have been obtained by England, but as we have a cable from the Royal Commission advising us that they have purchased 305,000 tons of Cuban sugars, this matter is now definitely decided.

Besides these purchases it is estimated that they have also secured some 60,000 tons raw sugar from other sources, Peru, Mexico, West Indies, etc. As the refining capacity of the United Kingdom is still 80,000 tons per month maximum, it would look as if they had secured a sufficient quantity of raws for some time. The consumption of the United Kingdom, however, is 140,000 tons a month, so additional white sugar either refined from the United States or white raws from Java, Mauritius or other countries, must still be obtained to fill out the consumption.

Louisiana Crop Very Small.

A prominent Louisiana planter wires us as follows, giving his estimate for a small crop and his reasons therefor: "Lockport, La., November 23, 1915. Grinding season, 1915-16, shortest on record in Louisiana. Several plantations already finished grinding. Thirty per cent will be finished by December 5th, 50 per cent by December 10th and 90 per cent by December 20th. Output will not be 120,000 tons."

Exports during the week were 42,832 tons total, of which 12,529 tons were to Europe and the balance to the United States Atlantic ports. Stocks have been reduced to 79,599 tons against 97,000 tons at same date last year. None of the Centrals have as yet begun grinding, and the same was true of last year at this time, although in 1913 one factory had started the campaign.

Weather has been reported as unsettled or heavy rains in some sections. The cane has attained a fine growth, but dry conditions are needed to ripen it. A few Centrals are expected to start up early in December, but grinding operations will not be at all general until around the holidays. Production in December is not looked for to exceed that of December last year, when about 15,000 tons were produced.

Harvesting of the new crop has commenced at one of the large Central mills this week. Some new crop Porto Rico sugar have been sold recently to refiners at full-up prices for early December shipment.

Hawaiian Sugar Contract.

It is authoritatively announced that representatives of Hawaiian sugar plantations have contracted with Messrs. B. H. Howell, Son & Co. and the Penna Central Sugar Co. for sugar to take one-half at that portion of the Hawaiian sugar crop which may be shipped from Hawaiian island ports to Atlantic Coast ports during a period of two years from October 1, 1915. The quantity which usually comes to this coast is 250,000 tons per annum. Deliveries here run from January to October.

The terms of settlement of these contracts are based on the average price prevailing in the New York market for a period of days prior to the arrival of each particular lot.

Our special cable gives a reduction of 60,000 tons to 1,275,000 tons in the estimate of the 1915-16 crop now ending. Quotations have remained unchanged throughout the week at 6.90¢ less 2 per cent by all refiners. There are no special features to report, and naturally business at the high level has been very light, and only hand-to-mouth, and will probably continue so well into next month.

Shipments show no improvement American and Howell being two to three weeks behind, while other refiners can ship promptly.

Sugars from second hands have been in evidence, and business has been done from 5.60¢ up to 5.90¢ in a limited way. Moderate Export Business. Export sugar is quoted at 4.90¢ to 4.95¢, net cash, in bond, f. o. b. New York, net only the daily moderate business doing. Some refiners are rather slower sellers of export than formerly, and these quotations could be shaded for a fair-sized lot.

Domestic beet lists are unchanged at 6.45¢ less 2 per cent Central, and 5.55¢ Eastern territory. New York City quotation remains at 5.75¢. Some Michigan factories expect to be able to make fairly prompt shipments by the middle of next week.

KOLOA SUGAR COMPANY.

Koloa Sugar Company commenced grinding December 1, but no report as to the purity and sucrose is expected by the agents for another week. The 1915 crop amounted to over 9500 tons.

N. Y. K. WILL GIVE NEW YORK SERVICE

Monthly Sailings From Far East Expected To Send Ships Here For Bunkers

When the Panama Canal opens for traffic Honolulu will become a port of call for Nippon Yusen Kaisha steamers, bound from the Orient to New York.

A report made by George W. Guthrie, ambassador to Japan, said he had been advised by an official of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha that a direct regular service would be inaugurated as soon as possible between the Far East and New York via the Panama Canal to meet increasing trade requirements. Supplement Its Service. This line is expected to supplement the monthly service from New York to the Far East, which is at present maintained by round-the-world steamers dispatched from Japan to Europe via the Suez Canal. Mr. Guthrie wrote. This was written before the canal blockade became serious.

He did not state that Honolulu would be a port of call, but the N. Y. K. steamers from New York to Yokohama, Osaka and Japan and China ports have come here for bunkers, and there is no doubt they will call eastbound, also. The Nippon Yusen Kaisha is one of the principal lines of the world. The steamers it has had here have been model freighters. It maintains a line to Seattle. Before the Panama Canal was blocked by slides Honolulu had one month to the Orient. They reached New York from the United Kingdom in ballast, and had gone to the United Kingdom from the Orient via the Suez Canal.

Admitted to Conference. The N. Y. K. had been admitted to the New York Shipping Conference, C. Brewer & Company are Honolulu agents.

HONOLULU'S NEIGHBORS.

The three nearby plantations are all getting ready for the 1916 harvest. Oahu Sugar Company may begin either Saturday or Monday. Honolulu ought to have been at work before this, but has had to delay because of the non-arrival of mill-mechanics, which were caught "East of Panama," by the slide. The first cane will be ground December 16. Ewa will commence making sugar December 20.

ARIZONA IS COMING.

The Arizona, which will take 10,500 tons of sugar to New York via Magellan Straits, headed this way from San Francisco yesterday morning. This vessel's cargo will be half and half old and new crop sugars. She will arrive the fifteenth and will leave for New York either the day before or the day after Christmas.

BEST SUGAR PER ACRE.

The ten-year average production of beet sugar in European countries from 1902 to 1912 was as follows, in long tons per acre: Belgium, 1.61; Denmark, 1.53; Germany, 1.78; Italy, 1.31; Spain, 1.29; Sweden, 1.62; France, 1.34; Netherlands, 1.24; Austria-Hungary, 1.46; and, Russia, 0.90.

GRINDING OLD CANE.

Three plantations are still at work on 1915 cane, and all will pass on to the 1916 crop fields as soon as the cane ripens. These plantations are Hutchinson and Hawaiian Agricultural in Kau and Waimea on Kauai.

CUTICURA CURED TWO BROTHERS

One had Face Covered with Itching Eruption—Eyesight was Affected—Raw, Itching Humor Spread Over the Other from Head to Feet in a Single Day—Dreadful

SKIN-TORTURES YIELD TO EASY TREATMENT

"In 1907 my face broke out in a mass of itching sores which finally affected my eyesight. I was a miserable creature."

Several highly recommended salves that cost one dollar an ounce, but I used Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment. I used the Cuticura Ointment from his own experience. I used the Cuticura Ointment for about six weeks, after washing thoroughly with the Cuticura Soap. My face is in perfect health now which I owe to the Cuticura Remedies. I shall always stand by them as one of the greatest blessings to the suffering thousands. Arthur L. Grider, 532 Dean St., Brooklyn, N. Y., Apr. 9, 1909.

In the middle of the night of March 30th I woke up with a burning itch in my two hands and I felt as if I could pull them apart. In the morning the itching had got to my chest and arms. That day it spread all over my body. I was red and raw from the top of my head to the soles of my feet and I was in constant agony from the itching. I could neither lie down nor sit up. I happened to see about Cuticura Remedies and I thought I would give them a trial. I took a good bath with Cuticura Soap and used the Cuticura Ointment. I put it on from my head down to my feet and then went to bed. On the first of April I felt like a new man. The itching was almost gone. I continued with the Cuticura Soap and Ointment and during that day the itching completely left me. Frank Grider, 233 E. 43rd St., New York City, Apr. 27, 1909.

Complete External and Internal Treatment for Itching Sores, Eruptions, and Skin Diseases. Cuticura Ointment, 16¢; Cuticura Soap, 16¢; Cuticura Tablets, 16¢. Sold everywhere. Free booklet "How to Cure Skin Diseases" on request.

"The eight ranks of infantry mounted artillery, cavalry in the background—that was too much! A veritable battle plan of a past age, the product of a mind in its dotage and a half century behind the times. Commanders of armies get out of date in our times as rapidly as inventions and weapons, whereas the lives of soldiers should be entrusted only to the most modern, the most elastic and most highly endowed minds—the very risk of a nation's best talent. The English should have sent back their old celebrities to take share of communications."

"Sensitively, with admirable courage, the English troops came forward to the attack. They were young, were no decorations; they carried out with blind courage what their seniors commanders ordered—and this in a period of mortars, machine guns and the telephone. Their behavior was splendid, but all the more pitiable was the breakdown of the attack."

"The English mounted artillery had a wretched end: it not only got into the range of our machine guns, but at the same time our heavy mortars (called by telephone), raked it so rapidly and thoroughly that the men did not even have time to limber their guns. The cavalry regiments waiting in the background for the order to attack were greeted with some salvoes of heavy snipers from their snail-beds. That ended the battle. The attack broke down in front of our wire entanglements."

"An enormous number of dead lay before our trenches. The enemy's losses for the two days before this German division alone amounted, at a low estimate to 20,000 men." The losses that Kellermann's division should have suffered from this battle were in that "war is not a sport in the hands of a dozen privileged dilettantes."

GERMAN ACCOUNT OF LOOS BATTLE

British, Led By Senile Officers, Marched Bravely Into a Death Trap

BERLIN, November 15.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press)—The fighting around Loos, where the British succeeded in capturing a part of the foremost positions of the German lines in September, is still the subject of descriptive reports in the press. One of the most animated of such descriptions is from the pen of Bernhard Kellermann, known in America as the author of "The Tunnel."

He says that after four days of inconceivable heavy artillery fire the British began a gas attack on the morning of September 25. Four separate waves of gas, alternately white and dark gray, were blown forward toward the German lines; and at the same time the British artillery was hurling gas bombs upon the Germans. The latter coughed and held their breath as long as they could, but many fell, unable to resist the fumes. In the midst of all this the Germans were preparing for the expected infantry attack. Finally the British appeared, emerging suddenly as if from nowhere, behind a cloud of gas, and wearing masks. They came on in thick lines and storming columns. The first line of the attackers was quickly shot down by the hail of rifle and machine gun bullets that rained upon them from the shattered German trenches. The hand grenades especially wrought terrible havoc, some of them cutting down six or eight men. The dead and wounded soon lay like a wall before the German positions. The second and third lines of English suffered the same fate. It was estimated that the number of British killed before this German division alone reached 8000 to 10,000.

Four Germans Returned.

The fourth line of attackers, however, finally succeeded in overrunning the decimated front line of Germans, and moved by their guns to the very last. Those of them who had fallen were made prisoners. Not one of them returned to tell what happened in this terrific fighting. On the neighboring front, too, the British succeeded in breaking the German first position; and gained here from 500 to 2000 yards of ground. At the second German position, where their reserves were waiting, the attack was completely checked. The fighting lost something of its fierceness as the afternoon waned; and September 25 ended with hand-to-hand encounters and hand grenades attacks at various points along the front. The Germans made an attack during the night and regained a part of the ground.

The British renewed the next morning their attempts to break through the German lines. "They tried with quite new tactics—or, rather, with very old tactics that are out of date in this war. It was a thing wholly unexpected; and the staff officers looked on with open-mouthed wonder. Shortly before noon it was announced that the British thickly massed and in column formation of eight ranks were advancing from Loos to attack us. Their artillery was sending down a hail of shells to beat open a path for these storming masses."

At the same time, the enemy mounted artillery, in broad daylight, rode up to take up a position upon hill to the east of Loos, which is nothing more than a slight elevation in the landscape hardly noticed in riding across the fields. The batteries were carrying bridge material with them to enable them to make crossings over trenches and natural obstructions. Still more—two or two mounted cavalry regiments were observed on the plain far to the rear.

"Eight ranks of infantry mounted artillery, cavalry in the background—that was too much! A veritable battle plan of a past age, the product of a mind in its dotage and a half century behind the times. Commanders of armies get out of date in our times as rapidly as inventions and weapons, whereas the lives of soldiers should be entrusted only to the most modern, the most elastic and most highly endowed minds—the very risk of a nation's best talent. The English should have sent back their old celebrities to take share of communications."

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